

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 031600Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5527

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJ: IRISH REACTION TO BRITISH RENEGOTIATION REQUEST

1. WE HAVE NOT HAD OFFICIAL BRIEFING SINCE CALLAGHAN'S SPEECH, BUT FONMIN FITZGERALD, IN HIS CONTACTS WITH PRESS, HAS ADOPTED CONCILIATORY LINE TOWARD BRITISH NEEDS FOR NEW EC MEMBERSHIP TERMS. AT SAME TIME, HE NOTES IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES TO IRELAND OF "COMMON MARKET WHICH GUARANTEES US AGAINST EXPLOITATION BY BRITAIN THROUGH A CHEAP FOOD POLICY." HE STRESSES WISH TO AVOID RETURNING TO DEPENDENCE ON EXPORTS TO BRITAIN.

2. ON APR 1, SENIOR FONOFF SOURCE TOLD USHLHAT FRENCH HAD APPROACHED IRISH FOR SUPPORT IN TOUGH LINE AGAINST BRITISH
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RENEGOTIATION ATTEMPT. IRISH REPLIED THAT OTHER EC PARTNERS

SHOULD INSTEAD HEAR UK OUT, SET UP ANY NECESSARY STUDY GROUPS, GIVE BRITISH A CHANCE TO PROVE THEIR CLAIM THEY ARE PAYING DIS-PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF EC BURDEN, AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS WHERE BRITISH ESTABLISH LEGITIMATE PROBLEM. SAME SOURCE SAID THAT FRENCH WERE SURPRISED BY CONCILIATORY TONE OF IRISH LINEM

3. COMMENT: IN TH P INSTANCE, IRISH SEEM TO HAVE LOOKED CWKARLY AT THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS. CLEARLY, IT WOULD BE A MAJOR DISASTER FOR IRISH FARMERS IF BRITAIN, THE LARGEST FOOD IMPORTER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND IRELAND'S TRADITIONAL CUSTOMER, WERE TO OPT OUT OF THE EC. WE WOULD THUS EXPECT THAT IRELAND WOULD WORK STRONGLY FOR MODERATE RESPONSE TO BRITISH. MOORE

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